San José State University

College of Social Sciences/Department of History
Hist. 103: History of the Modern Middle East, Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. George L. Vásquez
Office Location: DMH-217
Telephone: (408) 924-5528
Email: george.vasquez@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m., and/or by appointment
Class Days/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.
Classroom: DMH 165
Prerequisites: Upper Division Status
Units: 4 Units

Course Description
A survey of the modern Middle East since the decline and fall of the Ottoman Empire to the present day. It will focus on several major issues which have defined the region and continue to be of vital concern: imperialism and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire; World War One, the Mandate System, and the growth of nationalism and secularism versus fundamentalist Islam; the formation of Israel in 1948 and the ensuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the Iranian Revolution and the rule of the Ayatollahs; U.S./Middle East relations and the quest for oil; and the changing status of women in the Middle East. This course will be taught by Dr. G. Vásquez, who has lived and worked in the Middle East and has taught several courses on the region.

Course Goals
Reasonable and comprehensive answers will be sought for the questions posed below: What repercussions occurred as the result of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire? Is there a legitimate Arab nationalism? What was the Mandate System? What were the origins of the Palestinian/Israel conflict? How have leading scholars and intellectuals regarded Islam and its detractors? Why did Egyptian nationalism fail? What lessons can Turkey teach nationalists and secularists? Was the Iranian Revolution inevitable? Is the U.S. on a self-destruction mission in the region? Why are Americans hated so much? What chances are there for a western-type democracy in the region? What is the role of women in the Middle East and how can it be enhanced?
**Student Learning Objectives**

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to use what they learned about the Modern Middle East to:

• demonstrate their knowledge of the geography of the region by means of a geography quiz which must be passed with a grade of 80 or above (students will be able to take the geography quiz more than once until proficiency has been reached).

• identify and describe the main political, social, and diplomatic events involving the areas as a whole and especially of the five key countries studied: Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. This will be demonstrated first in the oral country reports made in class, secondly by the quiz on the specific countries, and thirdly on the final examination.

• explain the origins and dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian Question through classroom discussions, chapter quizzes of the relevant sections of the principal textbook, and the final examination.

• identify U.S. interests in the region as well as the reasons for anti-Americanism throughout the Middle East. This will be accomplished through lectures and discussions, country reports, quizzes and examinations.

• describe the changing status of women in the Arab, Turkish, and Iranian world. This will be demonstrated in the writing of a fifteen-to-twenty-page analytical essay on the role of women in the Middle East.

• read, write, think, and speak critically about historical issues and events.

**Required Texts/Readings**


The textbook and novels may be purchased at the Spartan Bookstore located in the Student Union or through Amazon.com.
Required Workbooks

There are two Workbooks for this course which can only be bought together at Maple Press, located at 481 E. San Carlos Street, between 10th and 11th Streets. Only cash and checks are accepted – NO CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS.

Recommended Reading

General Histories

Melissa Rossi, *What every American Should Know About the Middle East* (Plume, 2008).

Dissolution of the Ottoman Empire & the Mandate System

David Fromkin, *A Peace to End all Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East* (Holt Paperbacks, 2009).

Secularism

1. Turkey


2. Egypt

Tom Little, *Egypt* (Frederick A. Praeger, 1958).
3. Iraq


Religion and Politics (The Iranian Revolution)


Religion and Politics (Saudi Arabia)


Wallace Stegner and Thomas W. Lippman, *Discovery!: The Search for Arabian Oil* (Selway Press, 2007).


Israel and The Palestinian Question


Efraim Karsh, *Palestine Betrayed* (Yale University Press, 2010).

**U.S. and the Middle East**


**Women in the Middle East**


**Intellectuals (and Novelists)**


**Classroom Protocol**
1. Classroom attendance is highly recommended, if not mandatory. Phrased differently, attending class is the *sine qua non* for passing the course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate actively in classroom discussions, demonstrating that they have completed the reading assignment as well as the workbook exercise for each class session.

2. The class begins at 12 noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. While it is understandable that circumstances may occasionally cause late arrival, repeatedly coming to class late is unacceptable. If you do come late, enter as quietly as possible and make sure the door closes as quietly as possible. Also make sure to use the rear entrance to the classroom.

3. Sudden illness or personal emergencies are the only acceptable reasons for leaving in the middle of class. Go to the rest room before coming to class. If you must leave class, do so as quietly as possible and make sure the door does not bang when you exit and return. During an examination do not leave the room without asking the instructor’s permission.

4. Please turn off cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices that could disrupt the classroom. Lectures and classroom discussions are not to be recorded or transmitted in any what without the instructor’s prior approval.

5. Oral presentations and completion/submission of papers are expected to occur according to the schedule stated in this syllabus or in subsequent handouts. Failure to deliver the oral presentation will result in an automatic grade of zero. The same is true in the case of a late submission of the critical essay.

### Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at [http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html). Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/)

### Assignments and Grading Policy

1. Quiz on Rogan’s *The Fall of the Ottoman Empire*, worth 5% of the final grade. This quiz will be based on questions taken from the Handbook on this subject.

2. Two *in-class geography quizzes*, 5% of the semester grade. The first quiz will test the student’s knowledge of both the physical and political geography of the entire Middle East. [The geography quiz can be taken more than once, until the student proves proficiency by receiving a grade of 80 or above.]

   The second quiz will be country-specific, dealing with the five key countries to be emphasized in the course: Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.
(3) **Group Country Report.** Students are required to make a “Group Country Report” on one of the following key countries in the Middle East: Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, in conjunction with fellow classmates. The maximum number per group should not exceed five. Make sure to check with the instructor once your group has been formed. [see the separate handout entitled “Group Country Report” for further details.] The Group Country Report is worth 20% of the final grade.

(4) **Critical Essay.** All students will write a ten-to-twelve-page critical essay addressing the question of how women are treated in Mahfouz’s *Midaq Alley*, al-Shaykh’s *The Story of Zahra*, Nafisi’s *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, and Brooks’, *Nine Parts of Desire. The Hidden World of Islamic Women*. Nobel Prize winner Mahfouz’s female characters, as you will discover, are filled with sadness and tragic realism. Al-Shaykh’s – the best known woman author of the Arab world – heroine is a young Lebanese woman who attempts to stem the violence in Beirut during the recent Civil War by initiating a sexual liaison with a sniper. Nafisi taught Western literature at the University of Tehran and has written an extraordinary memoir about defying the Ayatollahs by teaching Jane Austen, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Henry James and Vladimir Nabokov clandestinely to young female students in her living room. Brooks spent six years in the Middle East as *The Wall Street Journals*’ foreign correspondent covering the daily life of Muslim women and exploring the contradictory forces that shaped their lives. [See the separate handout entitled “Analytical Essay” for further instructions.] Late papers are not accepted and will not be graded. The only exception to this rule is in case of hospitalization when accompanied by a letter signed by the attending physician. Ignoring this policy will only result in anguish and a very low grade in the course. The critical essay will be worth 20% of the final grade.

(5) **Class Participation.** Students are expected, indeed required, to come to class having completed the reading ahead of time and be prepared to discuss the assigned reading material. From time to time, it may also be necessary to have an announced and/or unannounced quiz on weekly reading assignments. Class participation, including all non-geography quizzes, will account for 10% of the final grade.

(6) **Examinations.** There will be two examinations in this course. Both will be essay-type exams which will consist of short answer questions, identifications of noteworthy passages and commentary on the same, as well as essay questions on the main topics covered both in the lectures as well as in the readings. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final grade.

The course grade will be determined at follows:

- Quiz on Rogan’s Monograph .......................... 5%
- Geography Quizzes (2) ................................. 5%
- Class Participation .................................. 10%
- Country Group Report ................................. 20%
- Critical Essay ......................................... 20%
- Mid Term Exam ....................................... 20%
- Final Exam ............................................. 20%

Important Course Dates:

- Sept. 1  Rogan Quiz
Sept. 3  Geography Quiz #1
Sept. 29  Geography Quiz #2
Oct. 6    Mid Term Exam
Nov. 24   Essay Due
Dec. 1, 3, 8  Country Reports
Dec. 11   Final Exam

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability

Course Workload

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. (See SJSU Academic Senate Policy S12-3.)

Because this is a 4-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of twelve hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. Careful time management will be required to keep up with readings and assignments in an intensive course such as this one.

For this class, students will complete in-class midterm and final examinations as well as two geography quizzes and a specialized quiz on one of the monographs assigned in the course; a group country report (which will require meetings outside of class with other students and the instructor); and a critical essay focusing on the condition of Middle Eastern women as portrayed in two Arab novels and a monograph on the contradictory forces which shape women’s lives in the region.
# Course Schedule

## Table 1 Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug. 20</td>
<td>Organizational Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td><strong>World War One and the Arab Revolt</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kamrava, ch. 1 (From Islam to the Great War)&lt;br&gt;Film: “Blood and Oil” (112 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td><strong>World War One and the Arab Revolt</strong>&lt;br&gt;Film: “Blood and Oil” (112 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td><strong>World War One and the Arab Revolt</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Rogan’s <em>The Fall of the Ottomans</em>&lt;br&gt;Quiz on Rogan</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td><strong>The Mandate System</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, ch. 2 (From Territories to Independent States)&lt;br&gt;Geo Quiz #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td><strong>The Mandate System</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, ch. 2 (From Territories to Independent States)&lt;br&gt;Film: “1913 Seeds of Conflict” (53 mins.)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Sept. 10</td>
<td><strong>Kemal Atatürk and the Secularization of Turkey</strong>&lt;br&gt;Film: “Incredible Turk, 1958” (55 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td><strong>Kemal Atatürk and the Secularization of Turkey</strong>&lt;br&gt;Film: “Hidden Turkey” ( 60 mins.)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td><strong>The Creation of Israel</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, chs. 3 and 4 (The Age of Nationalism &amp; The Arab Israeli War)&lt;br&gt;Film: “Israel: Birth of a Nation” (100 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td><strong>The Creation of Israel</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, chs. 3 and 4 (The Age of Nationalism &amp; The Arab Israeli War)&lt;br&gt;Film: “Israel: Birth of a Nation” (100 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td><strong>The Creation of Israel</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, chs. 3 and 4 (The Age of Nationalism &amp; The Arab Israeli War)&lt;br&gt;Film: “Six Days in June. The War that Redefined the Middle East” (108 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td><strong>Nasser and Arab Nationalism</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Mahfouz, <em>Midaq Alley</em>&lt;br&gt;Film: “Nasser 56” (142 Mins.)&lt;br&gt;Geo Quiz #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td><strong>Mid Term Exam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td><strong>The Shah of Iran</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, ch. 5 (The Iranian Revolution)&lt;br&gt;Film: “The Last Shah” (101 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td><strong>The Shah of Iran</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, ch. 5 (The Iranian Revolution)&lt;br&gt;Film: “The Last Shah” (101 mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td><strong>The Islamic Revolution of Iran</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, ch. 5 (The Iranian Revolution)&lt;br&gt;Film: “Iran Hostage Crisis” (96 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td><strong>The Islamic Revolution of Iran</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, ch. 5 (The Iranian Revolution)&lt;br&gt;“Iran Hostage Crisis” (96 mins.)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
<td><strong>The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, chs. 8 &amp; 9 (The Challenge of Economic Development &amp; States and their Opponents)&lt;br&gt;Film: “House of Saud” (216 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td><strong>The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, chs. 8 &amp; 9 (The Challenge of Economic Development &amp; States and their Opponents)&lt;br&gt;Film: “House of Saud” (216 mins.)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td><strong>The Palestinian Question</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, ch. 7 (The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict)&lt;br&gt;Film: “The Gatekeepers” (101 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td><strong>The Palestinian Question</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, ch. 7 (The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict)&lt;br&gt;Film: “The Gatekeepers” (101 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Nov. 5</td>
<td><strong>U.S. and Middle Eastern Oil</strong>&lt;br&gt;Film: “Fight For Oil: 100 years in the Middle East,” Parts One and Two (53 and 55 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td><strong>U.S. and Middle Eastern Oil</strong>&lt;br&gt;Film: “Fight for Oil: 100 years in the Middle East,” Parts Two and Three (55 and 52 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Nov. 12</td>
<td><strong>Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, chs. 6, 10 &amp; 11 (The Gulf Wars and Beyond,</td>
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<tr>
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<td>The Question of Democracy &amp; Challenges Facing the Middle East)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td><strong>Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: Kamrava, chs. 6, 10 &amp; 11 (The Gulf Wars and Beyond, The Question of Democracy &amp; Challenges Facing the Middle East)&lt;br&gt;Video: “Osama Bin Laden: In the Name of Allah” (50 mins.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td><strong>Country Reports One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td><strong>Country Reports Two</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td><strong>Country Reports Three</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td><strong>9:45 to 12 noon</strong></td>
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